

TOP SECRET FROTH

2 May 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
THROUGH : Director of Strategic Research
SUBJECT : Status Report No. 4 on SSDSG
Overseas Base Requirements

Details of Trip

1. Nine members of the study group made a trip to the Far East during the period 14-28 April. We visited Hawaii, Kwajalein, Guam the Philippines, Taiwan, Okinawa, Japan, South Korea and Alaska. In several of the countries we made extensive chopper flights.

2. The trip was quite worthwhile. The ambassadors and senior military officials presented detailed briefings on a variety of subjects including the relationship of bases to the current SIOPs.

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Comments on Military Bases

3. As expected, the senior military officials generally expressed a strong need for all the bases we now have. Their views were based largely on straight line projections of current forces under a continuing strategy of strong forward defense.

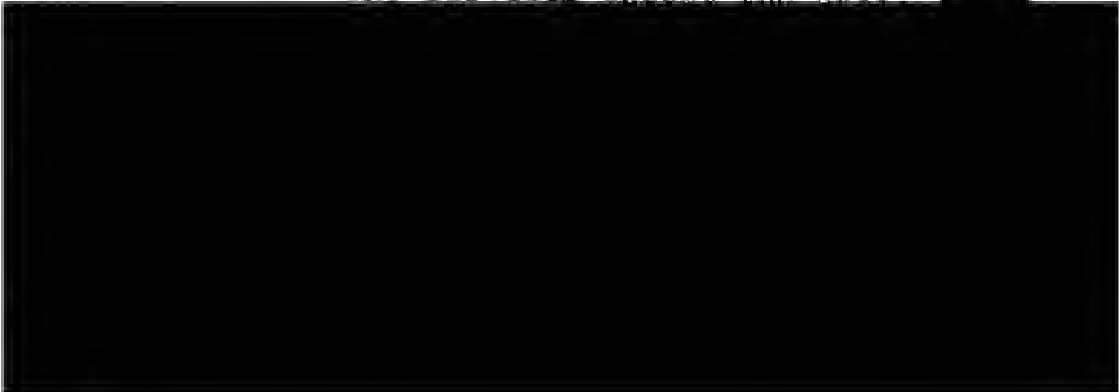
4. The Vietnam war provided the impetus and funds for further improvement and expansion of bases in the area.

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5. Okinawa appears to be the single most important base complex in the western Pacific for all of the military services except the Navy.



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6. Certain of the islands of the Trust Territory of the Pacific such as Tinian and Saipan may offer base alternatives for some of the activities now conducted from bases near or forward of these islands.

7. Increasing pressure is building up against our bases in the Ryuku Islands and Japan. Several of these bases apart from Okinawa, are quite essential to our current strategy--Yokosuka and Sasebo to the Navy and Yokota, Tachikawa and Misawa to the Air Force. Yokosuka for example has the only dry dock west of Pearl Harbor capable of accommodating all of the different ships in the Navy. The utility of some of the 44 US Army bases in Japan is less clear. Some are furnishing logistic and medical support to forces in South Vietnam and South Korea, but many have a meaning only if US ground troops are reintroduced into Japan or are staged through there on the way to South Korea.



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SSDSG Manning

13. Gen. Carroll finally came through with a full time man for the SSDSG after Gen. Wood sent him a second rather sharp note. It is obvious that he furnished this man reluctantly and preferred to handle his liaison with the organization on a contact arrangement.

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